

one end and then at the other. I thought it best to thrust the dagger into the snake as near the head as possible; but as that was hidden by the bench I could not see it, and I made a thrust through the lungs. It started and Fanny was thrown from its folds with a jerk, when its aim was to retreat by the way it had entered. I then withdrew the dagger and thrust it into the snake further back, so as to hold him till the men on the outside could disable him. As his head appeared they beat him with sticks, so as to prevent him from running away entirely."

To the above I will add, that Mr. Smith displayed great fearlessness on the occasion; for though there were on the spot a number of men, both colonists and natives, yet not one could be induced to follow him into the house. An attack from the serpent might have been apprehended, for he was evidently in a state of extreme hunger.

The general habit of this serpent in seeking for its prey is to lie in ambush near a frequented path or watering-place, and suspended from a tree, or with its tail fixed to some other object, suddenly dart upon the unwary animal. The attack is so sudden and violent that the victim is often prostrated and stunned, and then begins the dreadful process of constriction. A bullock was so much injured in a recent attack, as to be supposed beyond the possibility of recovery.

In making the onset, it is not always necessary that the tail should be coiled around a fixed object. The hooks or claws near the anus are sometimes protruded, it is said (and the evidence is wholly satisfactory), and inserted in the ground or under roots, thus affording a fulcrum which gives inconceivable force to the blow.

These horny processes, or rudimental feet as they have been called, are also serviceable in ascending trees: they are inserted into the ground and bark of the tree, constituting fixed points, which greatly facilitate the ascent. We have satisfactory testimony in proof of another habit that I have never seen mentioned, in which these hooks must be highly serviceable. It is said, that in fields more or less open they often raise their heads above the surrounding grass and shrubbery in search of prey; their application then in this act must be evident; protruded and penetrating the ground beneath the roots, they must afford great support to the body. In this position birds have been known to attempt to alight, mistaking it, in its motionless attitude, for a stick or stump, and thus to have fallen unwarily into its distended jaws.

Instances of its attack upon men are very rare, and never, probably, except when it is in a state of extreme hunger.

The natives fear them single-handed, but not in numbers. They seek them for food, esteeming them very highly on their *bill of fare*.

Its places of resort are streams and damp places. Almost all animals constitute its prey. It is not poisonous, as is well known. Its constrictive power is all that renders it formidable.—*From the Boston (U. S.) Journ. of Nat. Hist.* vol. iv. No. 2.

ON THE PLACE OF ISOETES IN THE SYSTEM.

Following the opinion of C. Richard, M. Bory de St. Vincent considers that the Linnæan genus *Isoëtes* has such distinct characters that it must be regarded as a natural family; to this it has been ob-

jected, that it would be unadvisable to increase the number of families by forming one containing only one or two species.

The *Isoëtes* are certainly not ferns, neither can they be classed with the *Lycopodiaceæ*, as some have proposed. In the flora resulting from the botanical explorations of the scientific commission of Algeria, the family of the *Isoëtaceæ* has not only been firmly established, but at least two or three species have been added.

In the first instance only two *Isoëtes* were known, both aquatic; the *lacustris* of the north, and *I. Coromandelica* of Hindostan. Prof. Delile found the *Isoëtes* of the pool of Gramont near Montpellier so different from the *lacustris* of Linnæus, that he has characterized it as a new species under the name of *I. setacea*. It is essentially southern, and has been found by Dr. Mogent in the Gérardmer, an elevated lake of the Vosges. Subsequently a fourth *Isoëtes* was found in Brazil, and several others have been found in N. America, New Holland and the islands of the Pacific. Those which have been found in Algeria are of two kinds, and might be separated into two very distinct subgenera: the first composed of two or three species, like all previously known *Isoëtes*, aquatic; the second of two terrestrial species, which instead of growing at the bottom of lakes, are found in the driest and most exposed parts of the country. The *Isoëtes* of Algeria are—
*Aquaticæ: 1. *I. setacea*, Del., a *Delilei*, β *Peyrremondii*; 2. *I. longissima* (n. sp.): **Terrestres: 3. *I. Duriei* (n. sp.), and 4. *I. hystrix* (n. sp.).—*Comptes Rendus*, June 24, 1844.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR JUNE 1844.

Chiswick.—June 1. Clear and fine. 2. Overcast and cold: fine: cloudy. 3. Light clouds and very fine. 4, 5. Very fine. 6. Slight rain: cloudy. 7. Overcast: boisterous. 8. Very fine. 9. Slight rain: very fine. 10. Fine: cloudy. 11—16. Very fine. 17. Hot and dry: cloudy. 18. Rain: fine. 19. Overcast: heavy clouds, with showers. 20. Overcast. 21, 22. Very fine. 23. Exceedingly clear: sultry. 24. Cloudy: hot and sultry. 25. Constant heavy rain. 26. Cloudy: fine. 27. Cloudy. 28, 29. Very fine. 30. Dry haze: overcast and fine.—Mean temperature of the month 2°19 above the average.

Boston.—June 1. Fine. 2, 3. Cloudy. 4. Fine. 5. Cloudy. 6. Rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 7. Cloudy. 8. Cloudy: thermometer at 4 o'clock 75°. 9. Cloudy. 10. Fine: rain A.M. 11. Fine. 12. Fine: thermometer 4 o'clock 75°. 13. Fine: stormy all day. 14, 15. Stormy. 16, 17. Fine. 18. Cloudy. 19, 20. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 21. Cloudy. 22. Fine. 23. Fine: thermometer at noon 81°. 24. Fine: rain early A.M., with thunder and lightning: thermometer at noon 80°. 25. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 26, 27. Cloudy. 28—30. Fine.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—June 1. Cloudy. 2, 3. Bright: cloudy. 4. Showers: cloudy. 5—7. Showers: rain. 8. Bright: cloudy. 9. Cloudy: showers. 10, 11. Bright: drops. 12. Bright: rain. 13. Showers: bright. 14, 15. Showers. 16. Bright: clear. 17. Clear. 18. Drizzle. 19. Drizzle: drops. 20. Showers: drops. 21. Clear. 22. Fog. 23. Drops: clear. 24. Hazy: clear. 25. Clear: cloudy. 26, 27. Cloudy. 28. Cloudy: damp. 29, 30. Cloudy.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—June 1. Dry and withering. 2. Dry and withering: cloudy. 3. Fine. 4. Cloudy and threatening rain. 5, 6. Rain. 7. Very wet. 8. Fair, but cloudy. 9. Fair: threatening. 10. Showers. 11. One slight shower. 12, 13. Heavy rain. 14, 15. Fair. 16. Fair and fine. 17, 18. Rain. 19. Fair. 20, 21. Rain. 22. Fair. 23. Fair and warm: thunder. 24. Rain. 25. Showery. 26—30. Fair and fine.

Mean temperature of the month	55°·1
Mean temperature of June 1843	54 °7
Mean temperature of spring-water	51 °6
Mean temperature of ditto June 1843	50 °7